

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12

OMB-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /115 W

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R 301218Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5082

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US , AG

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 211862, (B) ALGIERS 2054

1. PANMUNJOM INCIDENT RECEIVED FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ALGERIAN MEDIA FOR SEVERAL DAYS. MEDAI APPEARED TO ACCEPT NORTH KOREAN VERSION OF EVENTS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AND TO RELY ON DPRK NEWS AGENCY IN COVERING STORY. GENERALLY SPEAKING, INCIDENT WAS TREATED AS A NEWS STORY OF HIGH, SECON-RANK IMPORTANCE. COVERAGE OFTEN HANDLED WITH HEADLINE ON FRONT PAGE WHICH REFERRED READERS TO LONGER STORY WELL BACK IN PAPER.

2. ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY AND OFFICIAL ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE (APS) EACH PRODUCED EDITORIAL ON INCIDENT. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER OUTRAGED AT ATTACK ON MEMBER OF NAM AND NOTED THAT FOURTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT HAD BEEN SIMILARLY PROVOKED BY OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE REGIME IN CHILE. THRUST OF APS COMMENTARY WAS THAT U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA HAD STAGED INCIDENT TO CREATE PRETEXT FOR BEEFING UP U.S. FORCES IN REGION AT TIME WHEN NORTH KOREA OUTSTRIPPING SOUTH ECONOMICALLY AND WHEN SOUTH KOREAN

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REGIME THREATENED BY POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. TO SUM UP, ALGERIAN REACTION MORE THAN PERFUNCTORY
AND REPRESENTS WELL HOW GOA WOULD TREAT THIS INCIDENT,
AND ENTIRE KOREAN QUESTION, IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.
ALGERIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN POLICY AWARE THAT
FACTS OF INCIDENT, AND OF U.S. POLICY ORIENTATION, NOT
EXACTLY AS REPORTED IN MEDIA. IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT
FRENCH TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE ON SUBJECT BY FREDERICK
BROWN (FBIS TEXT RECEIVED AUGUST 19), I SENT COPY UNDER
COVERING LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY (BENHABYLES) AND CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO BRUTAL
TACTICS OF NORTH KOREANS. ALGERIANS, HOWEVER, CAN NORMALLY
BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT PYONGYANG, WHATEVER MERITS
OF CASE. PARKER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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